In the Claims:

1-4.   (Cancelled).

5.   (Currently Amended) ~~The vending machine of claim 1,~~ A vending machine, comprising:

    a)   a control system adapted to:

        i)   determine new vending data for the vending machine, the new vending data relative to reference vending data kept at a central processing system for the vending machine; and

        ii)   generate difference indicia capable of instructing the central processing system to modify the reference vending data to reflect the new vending data; and

    b)   communication electronics associated with said control system and adapted to communicate the difference indicia to the central processing system wherein the reference data at the central processing system is modified using the difference indicia to reflect the new vending data;

wherein the reference vending data and the new vending data include records and data for the records and said control system is further adapted to compare the corresponding records for the reference vending data and the new vending data to identify records to insert into and records to delete from the reference vending data to reflect the new vending data.

6.   (Original) The vending machine of claim 5, wherein said control system is further adapted to compare the corresponding records for the reference vending data and the new vending data to identify records to modify in the reference vending data to reflect the new vending data.

7.   (Currently Amended) The vending machine of claim ~~1~~ 5, wherein said control system is adapted to generate the difference indicia to include a line number for an affected record, a type for the affected record, and data, if necessary, for the affected record.

8-9.   (Cancelled).

2

10.   (Currently Amended) ~~The vending machine of claim 1,~~ A vending machine, comprising:

     a)   a control system adapted to:

         i)   determine new vending data for the vending machine, the new vending data relative to reference vending data kept at a central processing system for the vending machine; and

         ii)   generate difference indicia capable of instructing the central processing system to modify the reference vending data to reflect the new vending data; and

     b)   communication electronics associated with said control system and adapted to communicate the difference indicia to the central processing system wherein the reference data at the central processing system is modified using the difference indicia to reflect the new vending data;

wherein said control system is further adapted to tokenize portions of data in the difference indicia such that the central processing system recovers data from the portions of data tokenized by the control system.

11-18. (Cancelled).

19.   (Currently Amended) ~~The computer readable medium of claim 15,~~ A computer readable medium comprising software for instructing a control system to:

     a)   determine new vending data for a vending machine, the new vending data relative to reference vending data kept at a central processing system for the vending machine;

     b)   generate difference indicia capable of instructing the central processing system to modify the reference vending data to reflect the new vending data; and

     c)   effect communications of the difference indicia to the central processing system wherein the reference data at the central processing system is modified using the difference indicia to reflect the new vending data;

wherein the reference vending data and the new vending data include records and data for the records and further comprising instructions to compare the corresponding records for the

3

reference vending data and the new vending data to identify records to insert into and records to delete from the reference vending data to reflect the new vending data.

20.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19, further comprising instructions to compare the corresponding records for the reference vending data and the new vending data to identify records to modify in the reference vending data to reflect the new vending data.

21.   (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim ~~15~~ 19, further comprising instructions to generate the difference indicia to include a line number for an affected record, a type for the affected record, and data, if necessary, for the affected record.

22-23. (Cancelled).

24.   (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim ~~15~~ 19, further comprising instructions to tokenize portions of data in the difference indicia such that the central processing system recovers data from the portions of data tokenized by the control system.

25-30. (Cancelled).

31.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 27,~~ A method, comprising:
    a)   determining new vending data for a vending machine, the new vending data relative to reference vending data kept at a central processing system for the vending machine; and
    b)   generating difference indicia capable of instructing the central processing system to modify the reference vending data to reflect the new vending data; and
    c)   communicating the difference indicia to the central processing system wherein the reference data at the central processing system is modified to reflect the new vending data using the difference indicia;
    wherein the reference vending data and the new vending data include records and data for the records and further comprising comparing the corresponding records for the reference

4

vending data and the new vending data to identify records to insert into and records to delete from the reference vending data to reflect the new vending data.

32.   (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising comparing the corresponding records for the reference vending data and the new vending data to identify records to modify in the reference vending data to reflect the new vending data.

33.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 31, further comprising generating the difference indicia to include a line number for an affected record, a type for the affected record, and data, if necessary, for the affected record.

34-35. (Cancelled).

36.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 31, further comprising tokenizing portions of data in the difference indicia such that the central processing system recovers data from the portions of data tokenized by the control system.

37.   (Cancelled).

5